

**St Martin's Church, North Nibley**

**25th July 2021**

***A service of the Word for the Feast Day of St James the Apostle***

Welcome to all.

*[Priest]* We meet in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

***Preparing for the Word***

We worship with Christians near and far, living and departed, old and young.  
God's word is for all of us.

May it be a lamp to our feet  
and a light to our path.

*You may like to open a Bible and place a candle lit near it.*

**News and Notices**

**Hymn: Spirit of God unseen**

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***Opening Prayer***

Lord, speak to us  
that we may hear your word.

Move among us  
that we may behold your glory.

Receive our prayers  
that we may learn to trust you. Amen.

***Collect***

Merciful God,  
whose holy apostle Saint James,  
leaving his father and all that he had,  
was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ  
and followed him even to death:  
help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world,  
to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **Old Testament Reading - 2 Samuel 11:1-15**

### **David and Bathsheba**

**11** The following spring, at the time of the year when kings usually go to war, David sent out Joab with his officers and the Israelite army; they defeated the Ammonites and besieged the city of Rabbah. But David himself stayed in Jerusalem.

**2** One day, late in the afternoon, David got up from his nap and went to the palace roof. As he walked around up there, he saw a woman taking a bath in her house. She was very beautiful. **3** So he sent a messenger to find out who she was, and learned that she was Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite. **4** David sent messengers to get her; they brought her to him and he made love to her. (She had just finished her monthly ritual of purification.) Then she went back home. **5** Afterward she discovered that she was pregnant and sent a message to David to tell him.

**6** David then sent a message to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent him to David.

**7** When Uriah arrived, David asked him if Joab and the troops were well, and how the fighting was going. **8** Then he said to Uriah, "Go on home and rest a while." Uriah left, and David had a present sent to his home. **9** But Uriah did not go home; instead he slept at the palace gate with the king's guards. **10** When David heard that Uriah had not gone home, he asked him, "You have just returned after a long absence; why didn't you go home?"

**11** Uriah answered, "The men of Israel and Judah are away in battle, and the Covenant Box is with them; my commander Joab and his officers are camping out in the open. How could I go home, eat and drink, and sleep with my wife? By all that's sacred, I swear that I could never do such a thing!"

**12** So David said, "Then stay here the rest of the day, and tomorrow I'll send you back." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. **13** David invited him to supper and got him drunk. But again that night Uriah did not go home; instead he slept on his blanket[a] in the palace guardroom.

**14** The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by Uriah. **15** He wrote: "Put Uriah in the front line, where the fighting is heaviest, then retreat and let him be killed".

## **Gospel: Matthew 20: 20-28**

### **A Mother's Request**

**20** Then the wife of Zebedee came to Jesus with her two sons, bowed before him, and asked him for a favor.

**21** "What do you want?" Jesus asked her.

She answered, "Promise me that these two sons of mine will sit at your right and your left when you are King."

**22** "You don't know what you are asking for," Jesus answered the sons. "Can you drink the cup of suffering that I am about to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

**23** "You will indeed drink from my cup," Jesus told them, "but I do not have the right to choose who will sit at my right and my left. These places belong to those for whom my Father has prepared them."

**24** When the other ten disciples heard about this, they became angry with the two brothers. **25** So Jesus called them all together and said, "You know that the rulers of the heathen have power over them, and the leaders have complete authority. **26** This, however, is not the way it shall be among you. If one of you wants to be great, you must be the servant of the rest; **27** and if one of you wants to be first, you must be the slave of the others— **28** like the Son of Man, who did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life to redeem many people."

### **Sermon**

**Hymn: Brother, Sister let me serve you.** CCLI Licence No.1476522

*[Priest]* Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*A Prayer for Forgiveness*

*[Priest]* Let us join in prayer:

Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore to us the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*[Priest]* May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive your sins  
and make you holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving*

*The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

***Hymn - O Jesus I have promised***

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***Our service draws to a conclusion***

Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

***The Blessing***

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

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